

ANAESTHETIC PHARMACOLOGY

Structural Forms of Anesthetic Compounds. By H. S. Mathewson, M.D. Pp. xvi + 223. Illustrated. R5.40. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1961.

This work is a compendium of seminars on the structure-activity relationships of drugs used by anaesthetists. Many useful correlations are drawn, to be remembered by reference to structural similarities and differences. Pharmacological properties are correlated on the basis of structure-activity principles. Although the book is intended to be an introductory rather than a reference work, a wide field has been covered, many compounds being considered which are outside the domain of the clinical anaesthesiologist, and there are many references to the literature, both in the clinical and experimental fields. N.S.

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

The Thymus, Myasthenia Gravis and Manganese. By E. M. Josephson, M.D. Pp. ii + 124. Illustrated. \$7.50. New York: Chedney Press, 1961.

The Myasthenia Gravis Foundation in the USA is a responsible and serious organization. The author complains that his contribution to the Foundation's symposium in 1955 was suppressed in its publication; what a pity that Chedney Press failed to follow suit!

While the unorthodox approach has led at times to discoveries of great value, I cannot see any good accruing from the unscientific mumbo-jumbo contained in this volume.

I cannot recommend it to any serious student of medicine. R.H.

YEAR BOOK OF MEDICINE

The Year Book of Medicine. (1961 - 1962 Year Book Series). Ed. by P. B. Beeson, M.D., C. Muschenheim, M.D., W. B. Castle, M.D., T. R. Harrison, M.D., F. J. Ingelfinger, M.D. and P. K. Bondy, M.D. Pp. 810. Illustrated. \$8.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. 1961.

The Year Book of Medicine in its latest series fully maintains the high standard established since its first appearance 15 years ago. This particular volume has the added interesting feature that each chapter is preceded by a short review of the progress in that particular branch of medicine in the decade 1950-1960. Looking back in this way emphasizes what startling advances have been made in all fields of medicine, including the basic medical sciences, diagnosis and therapy, and the description of new syndromes and diseases.

The dormant science of immunology has awakened to vigorous life with advances in the so-called auto-immune mechanisms of disease and has added great interest to the whole group of conditions. Isoniazid for the treatment of tuberculosis, amphotericin B for systemic mycosis, griseofulvin, vancomycin, kathomycin, and the synthetic penicillins, have all been developed in the past 10 years. In the endocrine fields the identification and purification of aldosterone and the development of the antidiabetic preparations are probably the highlights, but in virtually every field impressive advances can be named.

Once again the selection of articles for summary and inclusion in this volume has been carefully carried out, and it would be unfair to name any particular paper or section.

The editors, as before, contribute to the interest and value of the book by carefully considered footnotes to most of the summaries, which help to bring the papers into perspective in a wider field.

More than ever, this is a book that can be strongly recommended to every doctor, be he general practitioner or specialist in almost any field. H.M.

CHEMOTERAPIE VAN KANKER

Cancer Chemotherapy. Under the direction of R. Lee Clark, jr., M.D., D.Sc., (Hon.). Pp. xii + 253. R8.40. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1961.

Daar is 'n groot behoefte aan 'n boek wat die hedendaagse chemoterapie vir maligne toestande saamvat. Dit is noodsaaklik dat ons die regte kennis dra aangaande hierdie middels sodat ons hulle kan aanwend met perspektief en oordeel.

Hierdie boek verskyn as gevolg van die medewerking van die personeel van die M. D. Anderson Kanker Instituut in Houston, Texas. Die gehalte van die uiteensetting is in ooreenstemming met 'n mens se persoonlike ondervinding van die kwaliteit werk wat by die inrigting gedoen word.

Die verskeie gebiede van belang in die chemoterapie word goed behandel. Daar is afsonderlike hoofstukke wat die basiese chemie van die middels behandel, asook die uitwerking van hierdie middels sover dit bekend is op die sellulêre vlak.

Die individuele preparate word bespreek en word ook saamgevat in hulle groepe van alkiliserende, antimetabiese, sitotoksiese, en hormonale middels.

Die skrywers bespreek dan om die beurt die limfomata by kinders en by volwassenes, die leukemieë, veelvuldige miëloomatose, asook die gebruik by verskillende soliede tumore by kinders sowel as volwassenes.

Die literatuur is goed nagegaan en die bespreking word verder toegelig deur die ervaring van die werkers self, en hulle eie reekse en resultate word dan aangehaal.

Daar word ook uitgewei oor plaaslike, sistemiese, en streeksgebruik van chemoterapie as 'n aanvullende behandeling tot chirurgie.

Dit is duidelik dat chemoterapie tans nie meer as verligting bring nie en soms die oorlewingsyd van 'n persoon met 'n maligne toestand matig verleng. Maar die feit dat daar wel remissies veroorsaak word deur die gebruik van hierdie middels, is op sigself 'n hoopvolle teken vir die toekoms en maak dit noodsaaklik dat ons op die hoogte bly in verband met die gebruik op hierdie gebied. A.J.B.

SOMATIC STABILITY IN THE NEWLY BORN

Ciba Foundation Symposium on Somatic Stability in the Newly Born. Ed. by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P. and M. O'Connor, B.A. Pp. xii + 393. Illustrated. R5.00. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1961.

This report of the symposium, held towards the end of January 1961, covers the discussion of many problems of the periods immediately preceding and following birth. The contributors in both the human and the veterinary fields (McCance, Widdowson, Hammond, James, Usher, Villee, and others) make the quality of the contents predictably notable. It is not a book for the uninitiated, but for paediatricians, physiologists, medical biochemists, and all who have to cope with the problems of the newborn, it is invaluable, especially since the information is just over one year old. F.J.F.

ENT LECTURE NOTES

Lecture Notes on Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat. By E. H. Miles Foxen, F.R.C.S., D.L.O. Pp. x + 186. Illustrated. R1.85. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

This little book, which can almost be regarded as a well-planned synopsis, may yet prove itself to be a handy standby to most undergraduates when doing their ENT training. It is small, but it is at the same time fairly comprehensive, and its subject matter is well presented, to the point, accurate, and therefore reliable and useful. The student receives sound advice throughout which should discourage him from attempting too much. Procedures which are outlined for his use are well within his reach, while more specialized procedures are outlined briefly here and there; this should increase the interest of students in the subject.

The last chapter consists of a series of examination questions which have been set in the past by a number of British examining bodies, and students are advised to attempt to answer these questions as a means of testing their knowledge.

A book of this nature should be on every student's shelves. There is very little which he will not find useful in it.

G.C.A.v.d.W.

CHRONIESE KARDIOVASKULÊRE SIEKTE

Chemistry and Therapy of Chronic Cardiovascular Disease. By Richard J. Jones, A.B., M.A., M.D. and Louis Cohen, B.S., M.D. Pp. xv + 200. R6.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

Die bevordering van nuwe kennis in die chemiese geneeskunde word beoog met 'n reeks publikasies getiteld 'Our living chemistry series'.

Hierdie besondere uitgawe bespreek die chemiese en chemopatologiese basis van chroniese hartsiektes. Ons vind gevolglik 'n samevatting van verskillende aspekte oor chroniese hartsiekte waar almal die chemiese agtergrond gemeenskaplik het.

Hoewel die inligting nie nuut is nie, is dit 'n uitstekende oorsig oor huidige begrippe.

Daar word 'n hoofstuk gewy aan kongestiewe hartversaking waar die klem val op digitalis, orale diuretiese middels, en die elektrolietstoornis van hartversaking. Die patogene van trombose en die bloedstollingsprosesse geniet aandag. Die skrywers beaam weer die waarde van antistomiddel-behandeling, beide vir die akute episode van infarksie sowel as vir langtermyn-behandeling. Die trombolitiese aspekte van die probleem word goed weergee. Daar volg ook volledige oorsigte oor aterosklerose en oor die begrippe van serum-lipiede veranderinge.

Hierdie benadering van hartsiektes, uit die chemiese oog-

punt, is waardevol om die klem in verband met navorsings-rigtings en vooruitgang op die gebied van kardiologie op die regte plek te laat val.

A.J.B.

THE DIGESTIVE TRACT

Physiology of the Digestive Tract. By Horace L. Davenport, Ph.D., D.Sc. (Oxon.). Pp. 221. Illustrated. \$8.50. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc. 1961.

This book offers an authoritative and masterly review of the present-day views on the physiology of the gastro-intestinal tract. The mechanisms of motility and secretion are dealt with in a clear and concise manner, and the remainder of the book is devoted to digestion and absorption. The conclusions are based largely on experimental observations in man, but the results of selected experiments in other species have also been used to advantage.

The book also deals with various aspects of applied physiology, and includes several delightful excursions into clinical gastro-enterology. Davenport's objective appraisal of available facts is clearly evident throughout. The reviewer considers this the best available book on gastro-intestinal physiology, and it should be of benefit to all senior physiology students, physicians, and surgeons interested in the subject.

I.N.M.

GERIATRIC PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Psychopathology of Aging. Ed. by P. H. Hoch, M.D. and J. Zubin, Ph.D. Pp. xiv + 321. \$9.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1961.

This book is subdivided into epidemiology, psychology, psychophysiology, genetics and management problems of the aged, presenting several important aspects of geriatrics hitherto given scant attention.

Statistics play a large role in the different sections, tending ultimately to demonstrate the need for a team approach in the management of the aged; consequent upon this should be a decline in geriatric beds in mental hospitals.

An important contribution is the description of the relationship between the chronic brain syndrome and the functional disorders of senility. Kallman, in the Hamilton Award Lecture, provides a stimulating chapter on the genetics of the aged, and also lends emphasis to the importance of environmental factors.

Concepts and findings on the psychology of aging by Birren, included in this volume, have received the Stratton Awards. This book, however, is characterized by contributions received from many authorities such as Goldfarb, Wechsler, Brozek, Hoch and others, and is a valuable addition to the library of those interested in geriatrics.

R.W.S.C.